

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed December 12, 2005. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claims 1, 11, 16, 21, and 26. Applicants cancel Claims 2, 12, 20, 22, and 28 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that the subject matter of Claims 2, 6, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. (See Pending Office Action, page 6.) Applicant has incorporated the novel limitation of these dependent claims into Independent Claims 1, 11, 16, and 26. Thus, all these claims and their dependents now recite subject matter deemed by the Examiner to be allowable.

Section 103 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 16, 21, 22, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0105969 A1 to Benedyk et al. ("Benedyk") in view of U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0075900 A1 to Turina et al. ("Turina"). The rejections of claims 1, 3, 4, 11, 12, 16, and 26 are now moot in light of the amendments to the claims, as indicated above. Accordingly, all of these pending claims are allowable, as they recite subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Written notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejects Claims 5, 7-10, 13-15, 17-19, 23-25, and 27-28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Benedyk* in view of *Turina* and U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0053145 A1 to Willars et al. ("*Willars*"). The rejections of Claims 5, 7-10, 13-15, 17-19, and 27-28 are now moot in light of the amendments to the claims, as indicated above. The Applicant also has incorporated the limitations of Claim 22 into independent Claim 21. As amended, Claim 21 is allowable because it includes subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, all of these pending claims are allowable, as they recite subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Written notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Conclusions

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stands ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

No fees are believed to be due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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